Abstract

Described is an invention for safeguarding against the modification of certain data associated with one domain of a distributed network by an entity (such as an administrator) within another domain of the distributed network while still allowing the entity to modify other data associated with the one domain. More particularly, security safeguards are applied by a directory replication service that operates to replicate the shared data to each domain in a domain "forest." Those security safeguards allow a user to indicate that certain modifications of specified shared data may only be made within the domain in which the shared data was created. In that way, a shared data namespace may still be implemented in which trust relationships exist so that, for example, an administrator in one domain may alter a configuration of another domain within the forest. However, certain data may be restricted by these safeguards such that certain modifications of that data (e.g., taking ownership of the data) may only be done from the domain which currently owns the data.

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